PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AND CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTAINER SECURITY INITIATIVE

Having regard to the long-standing close and productive relations between the customs administrations of the United States of America and Canada, including the Agreement Between the United States of America and Canada Regarding Mutual Assistance and Co-Operation Between Their Customs Administrations signed 20 June 1984 ("the Agreement");

Recognizing the objectives of the United States-Canada Accord on our Shared Border, dated February 25, 1995, including the further collaboration on the harmonization of commercial border processes and procedures and the Smart Border Declaration and associated 32-point Action Plan, signed December 12, 2001, designed to improve the security of our shared border, while facilitating the flow of legitimate goods;

Being convinced that this cooperation can be further improved by continuing to exchange information and build on the best practices of the two customs administrations;

Recognizing the high volume of international trade to the seaports of the United States and Canada from ports throughout the world, as well as trade between the seaports of the U.S. and Canada;

Convinced that a greater level of cooperation is necessary to ensure that legitimate trade is secured and not disrupted;

Convinced that there is a need to deter, prevent, and interdict any terrorist attempt to disrupt global trade;

Supporting the principles sustaining the Container Security Initiative, which is designed to safeguard global maritime trade and ensure the integrity of containers by enhancing cooperation at seaports worldwide; better identifying high-risk containers, and asking foreign customs administrations to examine containers that have been identified by one or both of the Participants to this Arrangement as high-risk;

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) (collectively, "the Participants")

COME TO THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

To intensify bilateral Customs co-operation within the framework of the Agreement ;

To collaborate on the exchange of information and work together closely to help ensure the identification, screening, and sealing of high-risk containers in a timely fashion and in a manner that is consistent with each Participant's respective laws;

To station officers of CBP and CBSA at foreign seaports ("host countries"). CBP or CBSA officers posted in a host country will function in accordance with the terms and conditions of an arrangement between the customs administration of that officer's home country and the host country.

Officers of CBP or CBSA may be stationed in host countries under one of two scenarios:

A. Officers of both CBP and CBSA may be located within the same seaport in a host country; or

B. Officers from either CBP or CBSA may be located at a seaport and are to assist the other Participant in communicating with the host country concerning matters related to cargo bound for the other Participant's territory, when necessary and pursuant to the specific request of the other Participant.

To consult closely on the implementation of this Arrangement, in order to ensure continued effectiveness and mutual benefit of bilateral Customs co-operation.

To establish a joint oversight mechanism to ensure that the actions of the Participants related to this Arrangement are coordinated and integrated, to the greatest extent practicable, and that each participating and host country's sovereignty and laws are fully respected.

To reach a further understanding regarding the principles and procedures that are to guide the interaction between the Participants' officers in host countries pursuant to this Arrangement. This understanding will be referred to as the Partnership Program Framework.

The Partnership Program Framework is to include guidelines regarding information sharing for purposes of this Arrangement, in a manner that is consistent with the Agreement and the laws of each Participant's respective country, and take into consideration any other arrangements the individual Participant may have with host countries.

Signed in duplicate, at Virginia, on OCT 20 2005, in the English and French languages.

For
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

For the
Canada Border Services Agency